

Your ref: National Grid Richborough Connection Project
My ref: PINS170516

17th May 2016

For the attention of Chris White
Case Manager
The Planning Inspectorate
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Dear Chris White

National Grid Richborough Connection Project
Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended)

Thank you for your recent invitation to the Preliminary Meeting on 8th June 2016. We would like to confirm our attendance at this meeting.

As you are aware, Kent Wildlife Trust has registered as an interested party in the Examination of the Order Granting Development Consent for the Richborough Connection Project. We have been engaged in consultation with National Grid and Amec Foster Wheeler for some considerable time. Evidence of this can be provided to the examination if required¹.

We are currently working on a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) for the applicant's preferred route with consultants Amec Foster Wheeler. A draft SoCG was received from Amec Foster Wheeler on 26th April 2016 and we anticipate final agreement of this document within the stated deadline of 14th July 2016. Should our outstanding concerns regarding detailed route mitigation along this preferred route be resolved before the examination, we will be content to withdraw our objection in this regard.

However, this would be without prejudice to our **continuing objection in principle to the chosen preferred route**. Kent Wildlife Trust has outstanding concerns that the preferred pylon route is not the least environmentally damaging and we have not withdrawn our objection to the overall choice of route taken. Therefore, we would like to continue to be represented.

We look forward to being involved in future stages of the examination.



Yours sincerely

Vanessa Evans
Planning and Policy Officer

ⁱ in the form of a letter from Kent Wildlife Trust dated **9th August 2013**, which offered detailed comment upon the Strategic Options and Route Corridor Study, in addition to comments on the Connection Options Report, dated **30th June 2014**. We have also engaged in several consultation meetings and these will be detailed in the SoCG.